

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

**Hearing Date:** August 5, 2006

**Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations:** Consumer Information

**Section Added:** 1396.5

**Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:**

This section would require licensed psychologists who provide services to a client in a language other than English to provide to the client as appropriate the translations of required or approved notices or publications made available by the board in that language. It would also require licensed psychologists to discuss with the client the content of any required or approved notice or publication for those notices or publications only available in English. Lastly, it would require licensees to post the Notice to Consumer pursuant to section 2936 of the Business and Professions Code, if made available by the board in that language.

**Factual Basis/Rationale**

California has a diverse population of people, many of whom do not read or speak English. That is why the board provides several of its publications in other languages. For example, two brochures, *For Your Peace of Mind – A Guide to Psychological Services* and *Professional Therapy Never Includes Sex* are both available in Spanish, and may soon be available in Korean and Chinese. The Notice to Consumers required by Business and Professions Code § 2936 is about to be available in Spanish, Korean, and Chinese. Currently, the board does not require licensed psychologists to provide to their clients any translations of required or approved notices or publications made available by the board. By requiring the licensed psychologist who provides his or her services in other languages to provide the translations made available by the board, or discuss with the client the content of these notices and brochures only available in English, the client will be more aware of their rights and responsibilities of what is and is not acceptable as a consumer of psychological services. To increase consumer awareness of their rights, the board is proposing that section 1396.5 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations be added.

**Underlying Data**

N/A

**Business Impact**

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses.

### **Specific Technologies or Equipment**

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

### **Consideration of Alternatives**

No reasonable alternative to the regulation would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.